

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2520

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11916

E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINT CVIS UR

SUBJ: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION - MARIA SLONIM AND CHILD

REF: STATE 179485, MOSCOW 10985

1. SLONIM HAND HER MOTHER TATYAN LITVINOV (DAUGHTER OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER) CALLED ON CONSOFFS SEPT 28, AFTER BEING DETAINED ON STREET FOR ABOUT 150 MINUTES BY SOVIET "MILITIAMEM" POSTED OUTSIDE EMBASSY.

2. SLONIM STATED THAT SHE HAS EXHAUSTED ALL APPEALS IN HER EXIT VISA APPLICATION, ALTHOUGH HER DOCUMENTS AND PRESUMABLY VALID INVITATION (VYZOV) FOR VISIT TO EX-HUSBAND STILL ON FILE AT MOSCOW OVIR. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS REFUSED EXIT PERMISSION MAY 4 BY MOSCOW OVIR, WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN EXPLANATION TO EFFECT THAT "YOU ARE A SOVIET CITIZEN AND WE DON'T WANT YOU LIVING UNDER ONE ROOF WITH YOUR EX-HUSBAND." SHE WAS THEN RECEIVED AND REFUSED ON MAY 16 BY ALL-UNION OVIR CHIEF VEREIN, WHO REPORTEDLY MADE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT "IT WOULD BE ALRIGHT TO VISIT AN EX-HUSBAND IN BULGARIA OR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT US IS DIFFERENT." FINAL STEP WAS APPEAL ON MAY 26 TO GENERAL SOROCHKHIN, CHIEF OF COMMITTEE (KOMMISIYA) FOR EXIT VISAS, AN APPEAL BOARD TO WHICH APPLICATIONS APPARENTLY MAY BE MADE NO MORE THAN ONCE PER YEAR. LIKE VEREIN, SOROCHKHIN RECEIVED AND PROMPTLY REFUSED HER, STATING THAT THIS ACTION TAKEN ON BASIS THAT

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SHE HAS NO "NO RELATIVES" IN US. FYI: SLONIM STATED TO

CONSOFFS THAT SHE CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED IDEA OF POINTING OUT TO OVIR OFFICIALS THAT SHE HAS SISTER IN US (CHALIDZE WIFE).

3. SINCE PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS IN THIS CASE WERE IN FORM OF NON-PAPER AND LETTER FROM CONSOFF, EMBASSY WILL PRESENT ASAP FORMAL NOTE TO MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION ASKING THAT CASE BE REOPENED. EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED UPON HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF APPLICATION OF SLONIM SON, ANTON FREIDIN (AGE 7), TO VISIT FATHER IN US. EMBASSY WILL SUPPORT SLONIM'S OWN EXIT APPLICATION ON BASIS FACT THAT SHE IS LOGICAL AND NECESSARY ESCORT FOR SON. SINCE SENATORS KENNEDY AND TUNNEY INTERESTED IN THIS CASE, DEPT. MIGHT WISH SUGGEST TO THEM THAT REPRESENTATION ON THEIR PART OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS SENSITIVITIES IN THIS CASE. (IN PREVIOUS VISIT TATYANA LITVINOVA INDICATED HER FAMILY HAD APPEALED TO DOBRYNIN.)

4. SLONIM EXPRESSED VIEW TO CONSOFFS THAT HER INTERROGATION IN SUPERFIN CASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. SHE STATED THAT INTERROGATORS INDICATED TO HER THAT SHE IS NOT RPT NOT CRIMINALLY INVOLVED. SHE ALSO STATED THAT ALTHOUGH BOTH SHE AND EX-HUSBAND FRIEDIN (NOW GRADUATE STUDENT AT UNIV. CALIF/BERKELEY) HAVE MANY FRIENDS AMONG DEMOCRATIC ACTIVISTS, NEITHER WAS EVER CHARGED WITH ANY CRIME. EMBASSY HOPEFUL, THEREFORE, THAT SUPERFIN TRIAL WIL L NOT BE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE IN THIS CASE.

5. FYI: IN DISCUSSING FACT THAT SHE HAS BEEN "CLOSE" TO DISSIDENTS, SLONIM MENTIONED THAT HER COUSIN PAVEL LITVINOV NOW WORKS IN MOSCOW AS AN ASSISTANT TO A BIOLOGIST. SHE SATED THAT ALTHOUGH HIS INCOMCE FROM THIS JOB IS MEAGER, HE IS ABLE TO OBTAIN SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME BY TUTORING PHYSICS STUDENTS. SHE ADDED THAT PAVEL IS HIGHLY DEPRESSED, HOWEVER, OVER "CONDITION OF HIS FRIENDS," MANY OF WHOM EITHER IN PRISON OR OTHERWISE HARASSED FOR DISSIDENT VIEWS. ALSO NOTEWORTHY WAS FACT THAT MRS. LITVINOV, WHO IS TRANSLATOR AND MEMBER OF WRITER'S UNION, VOLUNTEERED COMMENT THAT RECENT SOVIET SIGNING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS OF ECONOMIC-SOCIAL-CULTURAL AND CIVIL-POLITICAL RIGHTS (MOSCOW 11751) MIGHT BE OF SOME USEFULNESS IN SLONIM EXIT VISA APPLICATION AND PERHAPS IN PROVIDING AT LEAST LIMITED ALLEVIATION OF SITUATION OF SOME DISSIDENTS.
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